

ALABAMA - COOSA - TALLAPOOSA
AND APALACHICOLA-CHATTA-
HOOCHEE-FLINT RIVER BASIN
COMPACTS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude today for the co-operation of my colleagues, and in particular my good friend and home State colleague, Senator RICHARD SHELBY, as well as colleagues from Florida and Georgia and the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Senator ORRIN HATCH, and the chairman of the Constitution Subcommittee, Senator JOHN ASHCROFT, for their expedited consideration of the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa and Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River basin compacts that passed the Senate today.

Our citizens in Alabama and the Southeast region have many benefits from an outstanding environment and a generous water supply. But population increases have made water resources extremely valuable. The water compacts passed today by the Senate are the first step in allowing the three States of Alabama, Georgia, and Florida to enter into legal, acceptable agreements which will ensure the water resources of the region are divided in a responsible and equitable way, which protects the environment and ensures a reliable supply of water for drinking, agriculture, and recreation.

Passage of these water compacts is the result of nearly 20 years of work between the States of Alabama, Florida, and Georgia. Today's action represents only the initial step in a challenging process which must ultimately be carried through by these States. The water compacts themselves do not contain the formula for actually dividing the water resources, but serve only to grant permission to the States to create a formula themselves. Without the water compacts, it is likely my home State of Alabama, along with Georgia and Florida, would be forced into Federal court for protracted litigation to determine an equitable way to divide these resources. The action taken today will allow our States to enter into thoughtful negotiations rather than wasteful litigation to determine a permanent solution to our region's water resource problems.

Mr. President, no remarks on this action by me today would be complete without my mentioning the work of Alabama Gov. Fob James and State Representative Richard Laird, who have worked tirelessly toward this end. Governor James has personally given his attention to the matter, and negotiations have been ongoing, as I have noted, for many years. Representative Laird has been very active in this entire process and has been the main spokesman for Alabama's effort for over 3 years. As a former attorney general in the State of Alabama and one who was involved in these activities, I know firsthand the personal commitment that Representative Laird has given to this effort.

I also want to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Craig Kneisel, the chief of the environmental section of the Alabama Attorney General's office. Craig Kneisel has been the chief of that environmental office since its founding around 20 years ago. He has given leadership and legal advice to this effort that has reached a good conclusion today.

So we have made a major step toward making an equitable resolution of the water problems of these States, but we have to keep on going. There is no doubt that, as our population increases, as our economy grows, there will be greater and greater stress on these wonderful environmental resources. We must protect them and at the same time must make sure that economic growth is facilitated by having a healthy environmental resource such as these two river basins.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KERREY. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, are we in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business has just concluded.

Mr. KERREY. It is only 20 to 6.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It is morning somewhere.

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KERREY. I thank the Chair.

DRUG CZAR BARRY MCCAFFREY
AND THE DRUG WAR

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, 2 years ago Senator SHELBY, the distinguished Senator from Alabama, and I were managing the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill on the floor at about this time of the year, I believe.

And one of the actions that we had taken in our bill was to zero out the drug czar's office. And the reason that we had done that was that we were quite unhappy with the progress and the performance and, especially, the effort made to interdict and the effort here at home to try to get young people to quit consuming drugs.

We were persuaded at the end of the day, Senator HATCH, Senator BIDEN, and the President himself, saying that they were going to make some substantial changes.

Change No. 1 that they made was to bring on Barry McCaffrey, a retired Army general. I do not know how they talked him into it. Somehow they managed to talk him into coming back and being the drug czar.

Yesterday, Mr. President, Barry McCaffrey sent a letter to the Secretary of Defense. Among other things he has done over the past couple years, this justifies both the President's confidence in him and Senator SHELBY's and my confidence that action would occur.

General McCaffrey sent Secretary Cohen, Secretary of Defense, a letter on the 6th of November saying essentially that:

The National Narcotics Leadership Act requires that the Office of National Drug Control Policy review the drug budget of each department and certify whether the amount requested is adequate to implement the drug control program of the President. For [fiscal year] 1999, the Department of Defense has requested \$809 million for drug control programs, approximately the same level as FY 1998. After careful review, ONDCP has determined pursuant to 21 U.S.C. . . . that this budget cannot be certified.

Mr. President, this is a gutsy move. As you know, as everybody around this town very long knows, to send the Department of Defense a letter saying, "We're not going to certify that your budget is adequate to accomplish the strategy that we have all approved in terms of fighting drugs in America," is a rather substantially gutsy move. And I support it 100 percent.

Perhaps Secretary Cohen will have a response to it. I have a great deal of respect for Secretary Cohen as well. Perhaps he will be able to come back and give a justification as to why the additional money for the Andean Coca Reduction Initiative, for the Mexican Initiative, for the Caribbean Violent Crime and Regional Interdiction Initiative, and for the National Guard Counterdrug Operations are fully funded at the \$809 million level.

My guess is, he will not. My guess is that General McCaffrey has done his homework and analyzed it well and understands what the drug policy is supposed to accomplish. And he understands that as drug czar he has authority.

In the past, drug czars have not exercised that authority quite as willingly. Barry McCaffrey did. And I hope this Congress supports him. All of us, when we are home, we will have townhall meetings. And if the subject of drugs comes up of, what are we doing? people say to me, "At least I hear you say it's a war on drugs. Describe the nature of the war we're fighting. Are we winning it? Are we losing it? What kind of resources are we putting into it?" I say, "We've got a drug czar. We've got a drug strategy. And we're implementing that drug strategy. We're not going to hold anything back in order to be successful."

What General McCaffrey has done is he has called upon the Department of Defense to do just that. As I said, I have not seen Secretary Cohen's response to this letter. I am here this evening just to applaud the drug czar for having the courage that previously drug czars have been a little reluctant to show. And if it is shown that these